



Currents

U.S. 52/IL 64 OVER THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Study Begins Public Input Encouraged



The Illinois Department of Transportation has recently initiated the U.S. 52/IL 64 Study. This study will examine transportation needs and solutions for the replacement of the existing bridge that carries U.S. 52 over the Mississippi River between Savanna, Illinois and Sabula, Iowa. The project will also involve the reconstruction of IL 84 at the northerly limits of Savanna, Illinois.

The U.S. 52 bridge over the Mississippi River in Savanna, Illinois was originally constructed in 1932. It provides a crucial transportation link for the region, connecting Savanna, Illinois and Sabula, Iowa. The nearest alternate Mississippi River crossing is located almost 20 miles to the south in Fulton, Illinois and Clinton, Iowa. The existing bridge carries two lanes of traffic, one in each direction. Over the years, a number of repairs have been made to the bridge including major repairs in 1985, minor repairs in 1999, and a partial replacement of the grid steel deck in 2008. The bridge is now rapidly approaching the end of its useful life, and is in need of replacement.

STUDY AREA MAP



"IDOT is committed to gather and duly consider project input from all interested parties by promoting public involvement and communication with stakeholders during the entirety of the project."

IDOT Encourages Public Participation

An important element of project success and acceptance is effective stakeholder involvement, from the very early stages of the study, through and including the identification and approval of solutions. Throughout the study process, IDOT will be utilizing an inclusive public involvement approach that provides opportunities for all project stakeholders to become involved. A stakeholder is defined as anyone who could be affected by the project and has a stake in its outcome. IDOT is committed to gather and duly consider project input from all interested parties by promoting public involvement and communication with stakeholders during the entirety of the project. The process contributes to the selection of an improvement design that fits into its surroundings, and strives to preserve scenic, aesthetic, historic, and environmental resources while maintaining safety and mobility.



Getting Involved

There will be opportunities to become involved and stay informed of the U.S. 52/IL 64 Study.

Newsletters present project progress, key information

To assist with the consistent delivery of information on the progress of this project, newsletters will be produced at key project milestones. Newsletters (like this one) will be distributed to all stakeholders and anyone requesting to be added to the mailing list. These newsletters will expound upon the basic information found on the website, update readers on the study's progress, **and serve as mailed invitations to the public meetings.**

Website provides detailed, current project information

An important and effective public outreach tool is the development of the project website. The site is designed to communicate and share information about the project and study process in a timely manner, as it becomes available. It will be maintained and updated throughout the duration of the project and will include project and meeting information, publications and reports, mailing list sign-up, and opportunities for the public to comment on the project via a comment page. Please visit the project website at www.dot.il.gov/us52il64/index.html to learn more about the project and the opportunities to stay continually informed as the study progresses.

Public meetings provide opportunities for involvement

Public outreach for the U.S. 52/IL 64 over the Mississippi River project will include opportunities for involvement in the form of public meetings. These large-scale meetings will encourage attendance and foster awareness of project developments and alternatives that are being evaluated. These meetings will also provide a forum for general public input, including concerns and comments regarding project alternatives. One public meeting and one public hearing will be held to coincide with major milestones during the project development process.

- The Public Open House Meeting (June 27, 2012) will serve as a project introduction to educate stakeholders on the project process, study area and history. It will provide an opportunity for the public to share its perspectives regarding transportation issues and project concerns, and review possible alternatives.
- The Public Hearing (January, 2013) will present the Preferred Alternative for public review and comment.

Project Phases & Study Process



During the course of this study, reference will be made to the three “phases” of IDOT projects. What are these phases, and what do they mean?

Phase I is known as the Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study phase. This phase involves the analysis of existing and future conditions, and defining the Purpose and Need for improvements. Using public outreach efforts combined with technical analysis, improvement alternatives are developed and evaluated in further detail. The Phase I study concludes with the selection of a Preferred Alternative.

After a Preferred Alternative is approved and additional funding identified, Phase II, or Final Design Plan Preparation and Land Acquisition, begins.

At the end of Phase II, final design plans are completed. When funding for construction is secured, Phase III, or the actual construction of the project, may begin.

The U.S. 52/IL 64 over the Mississippi River Study is presently in the Phase I process. All three phases of the project, up through and including construction, are funded in IDOT’s 2013-2018 Proposed Highway Improvement Program.

PHASE I STUDY PROCESS

The Phase I project process involves several distinct, but interrelated sequential steps.

Step I. Analyze Existing and Future Conditions

The first step is to analyze and understand the existing and future conditions of the corridor. This task includes collecting information on current and projected future conditions, such as traffic volumes, crash history and design standards. This information allows IDOT to identify deficiencies and begin the process for developing solutions.

Step II. Purpose and Need

The data collected in Step I contributes to the preparation of the project Purpose and Need, guiding the identification and evaluation of alternatives.

Step III. Detailed Environmental and Technical Studies

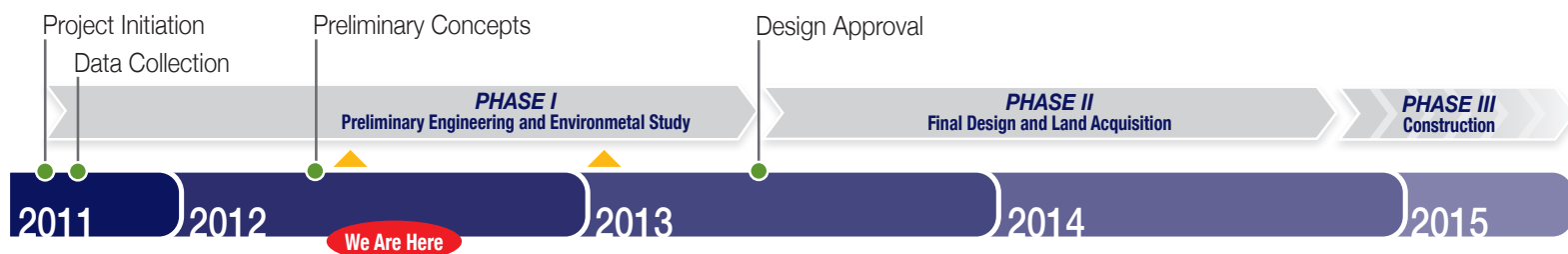
The next step involves the preparation of detailed environmental and technical studies. Reports detailing cultural and natural resources, water quality, and the identification of wetlands and sensitive environmental areas within the study area are included in this step.

Step IV. Environmental Assessment (EA) with Preferred Alternative

The final step of the process culminates in an Environmental Assessment report, which includes the selection of the preferred design alternative.



Anticipated Project Schedule



▲ **Public Meeting**
Public Open House #1: June 27, 2012
Public Hearing: January 2013

● **Design Approval:** June 2013

You're Invited!

IDOT to Hold First Public Open House Meeting for US 52/IL 64 Study

IDOT is hosting the first public open house meeting for the U.S. 52/IL 64 over the Mississippi River Phase I Study. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce the project, and solicit feedback on project alternatives. Interested persons may visit any time between 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. IDOT will provide information regarding the study schedule and process, study area characteristics, public involvement opportunities, and present conceptual alternatives to address project needs. Attendees will have the opportunity to review exhibits, provide comments, and meet with IDOT and study team representatives on a one-on-one basis.



* This meeting will be accessible to handicapped individuals. Anyone needing specific assistance should contact Carrie Hansen at (630) 510-3944. Persons planning to attend who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the TTY/TTD number (800) 526-0844/or 711; TTY users (Spanish) (800) 501-0864/or 711; and for telebraille dial (877) 526-6670 at least five days prior to the meeting.

The public meeting will be an open house format, and held at the following time and location:

June 27, 2012

1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**West Carroll
Primary School
2215 Wacker Road
Savanna, Illinois 61074**



For more information, please contact:

Illinois Department of Transportation
Region 2/District 2
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Dixon, IL 61021-3500
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